GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3468
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
Books for Blind Students
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note that books with audio facility through special techniques are being provided to blind students studying in different universities, institutes and colleges in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the colleges and university administration are providing all the required books and notes to the blind students;
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per the information furnished by the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped(NIVH), an autonomous body of the Department of Disability Affairs, speaking books/talking books are being provided to blind students studying in different Universities, institutes and colleges in the country by the NIVH and 38 other voluntary organizations, as on 18th December, 2015. A list of 39 talking book libraries in the country is enclosed at Annexure. Some of these are functioning from University/college premises. Also, 175 books in 6 languages have been converted, under a project in National Mission on Education through Information and Communications Technology(NMEICT), into "Accessible Study Material" in e-text DAISY format for the benefit of "Print Impaired Students".
(c) to (e): In addition to the facilities made available by the NIVH and the Department of Disability Affairs for the blind students under its scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons(ADIP), the University Grants Commission (UGC), under the component of "Providing Special Equipment to augment Educational Services for Differently-abled Persons" in its scheme of Higher Education for Persons with special Needs (HEPSN), encourages Universities and Colleges to procure devices such as computers with screen reading software, low-vision aids scanners, mobility devices etc. and provide facility of Readers to enrich the educational experiences of visually challenged students. The Guidelines of the Scheme are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/1604485_person-with-disabilities-Uni.pdf and http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5471032_person-with-disabilities.pdf for Universities and Colleges, respectively.
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